

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously amended) A drilling fluid additive comprising: graphite, copolymer beads and at least one carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof.
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said oils are selected from a group consisting of hydrocarbon oils, vegetable oils, mineral oils, paraffin oils, synthetic oils, diesel oils, corn oil, peanut oil and mixtures thereof.
4. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises soybean oil.
5. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 further comprises uintaite.
6. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive.
7. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about 96 % of said additive.

8. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 1 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive.

9. (currently amended) A drilling fluid additive mixture manufactured by a method comprising of:

admixing graphite with at least one carrier to create a suspended mixture, said carrier being selected from a group consisting of oils, glycols, esters, olefins, cellulose and mixtures thereof, and admixing copolymer beads to said mixture, said suspended mixture allowing the surface of said graphite and said polymer beads to be pre-wet with said carrier prior to adding said mixture to a drilling fluid.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said beads have a specific gravity at from about 1.0 to about 1.5 and a size from about 40 microns to about 1500 microns.

12. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said beads are comprised of styrene and divinylbenzene.

13. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said graphite has a size range from about 2 microns to about 40 microns.

14. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said oils consist essentially of hydrocarbon oils, vegetable oils, mineral oils, paraffin oils, synthetic oils, diesel oils, peanut oils, corn oils and mixtures thereof.

15. (original) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

16. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about 96 % of said additive mixture.

17. (previously amended) The drilling fluid additive mixture of Claim 9 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

18. (previously amended) A method of manufacturing a drilling fluid additive mixture, said method comprising:

shearing graphite with at least one carrier to create a suspended mixture to thereby allow the surface of said graphite to be pre-wet with said carrier, said carrier is selected from a group consisting of oils, esters, glycols, cellulose, olefins and mixtures thereof; and

admixing copolymer beads to said suspended mixture.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite and said beads having an affinity for oils, esters, glycols, olefins, cellulose and mixtures thereof.

20. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads have a specific gravity at from about 1.0 to about 1.5 and a size from about 40 microns to about 1500 microns.

21. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads are comprised of styrene and divinylbenzene.

22. (previously amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite has a size range from about 2 microns to about 40 microns.

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said carrier comprises polypropylene glycol.

25. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises admixing uintaite.

26. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said graphite comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

27. (previously amended) The method of Claim 18 wherein said carrier comprises from about 50 % to about 96 % of said additive mixture.

28. (original) The method of Claim 18 wherein said beads comprises from about 2 % to about 50 % of said additive mixture.

29. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises allowing said beads to be pre-wet with said carrier and shearing until a homogeneous mixture is formed.

30. (original) The method of Claim 18 further comprises adding said suspended mixture to a water-based drilling fluid; and pumping said additive into a well bore.

31. (currently amended) A drilling fluid additive comprising: a first mixture of graphite and oil in combination with a second mixture of graphite and glycol, wherein said oil pre-coats said graphite in said first mixture and said glycol pre-coats said graphite in said second mixture.

32. (original) The drilling fluid additive of Claim 31 wherein said first mixture comprises from about 1% to about 99% of said additive and said second mixture comprises from about 1% to about 99% of said additive.